

COVID-19 Mitigation Plan for NC Governor's School Summer 2021 – As of May 31, 2021

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

The North Carolina Governor's School...

- ...is a caring learning community with the health and safety of **each and every** community member being of primary importance.
- ...will rely on sound scientific evidence, and follow established local, state, and federal regulations and guidance with fidelity.
- ...is committed to fulfilling its mission of providing an innovative, integrated residential educational experience for all students.
- ...is an optional activity, and is only for those who commit to required protocols and caring for the entire community.

MITIGATION PLANS:

Developed in consultation with NC Department of Health and Human Services.

PREPARATIONS:

- All students/parents and faculty/staff must sign the *Assumption of Risk* document.
- All students and faculty/staff should plan sufficient time to be [fully vaccinated](#) prior to arrival.
- Based on CDC and NCDHHS guidance, NCDPI requests that all students/families and staff/faculty follow [guidance for travelers](#) in the 14 days before Governor's School arrival to reduce exposure to COVID-19, as much as possible.
- Unvaccinated students are asked to engage in a two-week pre arrival quarantine to the extent possible; this includes physical distancing, mask-wearing when not at home, avoiding unnecessary travel, and refraining from indoor social gatherings with people outside of their households.

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS:

- All eligible students, faculty, and staff are *strongly encouraged* to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 prior to their Governor's School arrival.
- In North Carolina, all 12 year-olds and older are vaccine-eligible as of 5/12/21. [Find your spot! Get your shot!](#)
- Room assignments and COVID-19 exposure response for testing and quarantine are based on vaccine status. Therefore, fully vaccinated students will be *required to provide documentation of vaccine series completion*. This is a critical part of mitigation efforts and will help with prevention, planning, and responding if a positive case unfortunately presents itself.
- Depending on guidance from CDC and NCDHHS in place in June, some protocols may be adapted for vaccinated participants at that time.

TESTING/SCREENING:

- All students and faculty/staff will follow basic symptom self-screening protocols before entering the classroom for the first time each day.
- At both Governor's School sites, High Point University and Meredith College, all students and faculty/staff who are **not fully vaccinated** will be required to:
 - Provide a negative PCR/molecular test result from a test completed no more than 1-3 days prior to arrival.
 - Participate in rapid antigen test screening every 3-4 days. Test results will require actions as indicated below.
 - Provide consent for these test screenings.
 - Participate in an additional PCR/molecular tests within the first 1-2 weeks after arrival. Those with a positive test result will be isolated and sent home. Parental consent will be needed for testing.
- [CDC guidance](#) allows for fully vaccinated individuals with no symptoms to be exempt
- Governor's School will follow the protocols below regarding testing and screening, in response to screening test results:
 - Negative rapid antigen test results in well people (no symptoms) will require no further action.

- Negative rapid antigen test results in symptomatic people will require a confirmatory PCR/molecular test
- Positive rapid antigen test results in well people (no symptoms) will require immediate isolation and are to be followed by a confirmatory PCR/molecular test. If the PCR/molecular test result is negative isolation can be ended; if positive, isolation should be continued at home.
- Positive rapid antigen test results in symptomatic people will result in isolation and return home.
- It is an expectation that all students who are positive for COVID-19 will be picked up from the Governor's School site within 12 day-time hours by a parent or designee. Students will be isolated in a special dorm and under the supervision of an adult while awaiting parent pick-up.
- Students/faculty/staff who have had COVID-19 during the last 90 days will not participate in the testing program.

HEALTH ISSUES/ COVID-INFECTIONS/ CONTACT-TRACING:

- If a student is **suspected** of having COVID-19 based on the presence of symptoms:
 - Student will be put in isolation immediately and a rapid antigen test will be performed.
 - Unvaccinated room/suitemates will be immediately be placed in quarantine and given a rapid antigen test.
 - Vaccinated room/suitemates will be observed for symptoms.
- If a student is **confirmed** (by antigen or PCR/molecular test) as having COVID-19:
 - There will be an immediate call to parents for pickup. Families will be given 12 day-time hours to pick up their student from campus. Students will not be allowed back to campus.
 - Unvaccinated room/suitemates will need to continue to quarantine and therefore will also be sent home immediately, like the original student case.
 - Vaccinated room/suitemates will be observed for symptoms. If they developed symptoms, they will be tested.
 - Staff will contact trace Governor's School Area I classmates and others with close contact to the positive COVID-19 case.
- Handling other regular health issues in context of COVID:
 - Symptom screen for COVID; if symptoms consistent with COVID-19 are present, rapid antigen test will be performed; if symptoms are not among [those consistent with COVID-19](#), or if no symptoms, proceed without test
 - If transport to urgent care/emergency room is required, use a van with 6' separation, face coverings, windows open, and two vaccinated staff members.

FACE COVERINGS:

- Face coverings will be required for all students, staff and faculty when they are inside a building, except within the personal dorm room or when eating or drinking.
- Face coverings will not be required outdoors.
- Unvaccinated students/faculty/staff are strongly encouraged to wear a mask outdoors and distance.
- Five face masks will be provided to each student and faculty/staff.
- Appropriate masks for instruments and choral students will be also be provided.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING:

- A minimum of three feet distancing between students will be required at all times indoors, except within a personal dorm room.
- Faculty/staff must maintain six feet from each other and other students at all times indoors.
- Special attention will be given to increased distancing with activities involving singing, wind instruments, etc.

OPENING DAY/CLOSING DAY:

- All parent forms will be available online and must be sent in before Opening Day.
- There will be staggered-schedule arrival times for dormitory move-in.
- Only 1 family member may accompany the student to assist with moving a student in or out of the dorm. The one accompanying family member must show proof of vaccination, a negative PCR/molecular test 1-3 days prior to arrival onto campus, or proof of having had COVID within 90 days prior. Masks and appropriate physical distancing must be maintained during move in/out.
- Parent/family convocations will occur remotely on June 13, 2021. Schedule and link to follow.
- Student convocations on Opening Day and Closing Day will occur according to CDC and NCDHHS regulations and guidelines.

CLASSROOMS

- Face coverings will be worn at all times indoors by all students/faculty/staff.
- Classroom capacities strictly followed according to CDC and NCDHHS regulations and guidelines and Governor's Executive Orders.
- Physical distancing strictly followed with a minimum of three feet while wearing face coverings between students and six feet with adults. Distancing may vary according to classroom activity

(e.g., greater distance to be used when choral music, instrumental music, dance, electives/seminars, etc.)

- Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms and buildings.
- Students will clean their own workspaces at the beginning of each class with [EPA-approved](#) disinfectant wipes provided.
- Classes will meet outdoors as much as possible.

OUTDOOR/SOCIAL:

- Face coverings are not required outdoors, in accordance with CDC and NCDHHS guidance. Unvaccinated students/faculty/staff are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings.
- All indoor events/activities will follow CDC/NCDHHS/GovEOs requirements and guidelines.
- Online registration will be required for all optional events/activities to ensure contact tracing, etc.
- Hand sanitizer (60% alcohol or more) will be available at all events/activities.
- When applicable, students will clean their own workspaces at the end of each event/activity.
- Outdoor activities will be selected as much as possible.

RESIDENTIAL LIVING:

- In personal residence rooms, face coverings will be optional and physical distancing will be expected as much as possible.
- Outside of residence rooms (halls, parlors, communal bathrooms, etc.), face coverings & physical distancing will be required; unless in a personal shower.
- Residence rooms will be double occupancy. Vaccinated students will be assigned rooms with other vaccinated students.
- Unvaccinated students will only be allowed one/per bathroom and wear a face covering as much as possible. Vaccinated students may be more than one to a suite-style bathroom and wear a covering as much as possible in the bathroom.
- No visits are allowed to other residence rooms on hall or to any other residence floors/halls.
- Residential faculty/staff will be single occupancy sharing suite bathrooms (exceptions for couples) and will maintain 6 feet of distance between adults and students at all times indoors.

COMMUNITY/LARGE GROUP GATHERINGS:

- All large-group gatherings will follow NCDHHS and Governor's requirements/guidelines and host campus room capacity. If events exceed capacity, remote access will be given from residences.
 - Cornerstone Events
 - Convocations/Speakers
 - Orientation Meetings
 - Variety Shows and similar events
 - Large Group film viewings
- Events will be outdoors as much as possible.
- Large group indoor gatherings may be possible when all students are wearing face coverings and the event is under 1 hour. On-site directors will determine these opportunities with NCDPI Director based on the specific event.

DINING:

- In-person dining times will be staggered for dining hall capacities. To-Go options will be available.
- Face coverings must be worn by all indoors when not eating or drinking.
- Physical distancing will be followed for all indoor and outdoor dining activities.
- Outdoor eating is preferred.

TRAVEL/VISITORS:

- **No student will be permitted to travel off-campus.** There will be no attendance of off-campus events, such as ACT/SAT, drug stores, etc.
- **No visitors will be permitted on campus,** including family members or special friends.
- **No outside presenters or visiting faculty will be allowed on campus.** All of these special guests will be participating remotely.
- **No mid-session break will be scheduled.** In past years, there has been one mid-session break where students go back home; this is not possible this year.
- There are no exceptions for planned or unplanned family events (weddings, family trips, etc.). We **discourage** planned medical events (e.g., allergy shots) as much as possible.
- Only exceptions are for case-by-case medical needs. Unvaccinated students must follow mitigation protocols while away and produce negative PCR/molecular test results to return to campus. Exceptions allowed for commuting faculty/staff and Governor's School administration teams.

CLEANING:

- Students will clean their own workspaces at the beginning of each class. Appropriate supplies will be provided.
- For suite-style bathrooms, residents will clean after every use high-touch areas.

- Regular cleaning by campus housekeeping following COVID-19 protocol established by the campus sites.
- Students and staff/faculty will take care of their physical community spaces as they do in their typical communities to ensure Governor's School will remain open.

FIDELITY/OTHER:

- Fidelity to mitigation protocols is of utmost importance. Student noncompliance could be interpreted on par with *Honor Code* violation. Disciplinary measures, from coaching to and ***including student dismissal***, are at discretion of Site Director (with Coordinator assistance if needed).
- If there is a COVID-19 cluster, Governor's School staff will coordinate with local health department and host campus administration to determine next steps and if a campus lockdown/shutdown is needed.
- Similarly, faculty/staff will be accountable for their protocol adherence.

COMMUNICATION:

- Prior to Opening Day, there will be periodic emails from Site Director, lead faculty, etc., to all students (to be shared with parents); Parents Conv. from Site Director, Coordinator, etc.
- Daily Updates will also be posted on a parent section of the GS campus website.
- More thorough Weekly Updates will be posted on the homepages of each GS campus website.
- NCDPI will review protocols and address any concerns as part of the parent convocation.

STUDENT/COMMUNITY SUPPORT:

- Governor's School is a supportive learning community of students, faculty, and staff throughout the summer on two different college campuses.
- There are many student supports available each day, including but not limited to, Deans of Students, Teaching Assistants/Counselors, Site Director, etc.
- There will be at least one Medical Coordinator on each campus.
- Students may contact family/friends via personal devices. If a student does not have access to personal devices, the Governor's School Office will provide access.



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If you have general questions regarding these health protocols, please contact Sneha Shah-Coltrane, NCDPI Director of Advanced Learning and Gifted Education, at sneha.shahcoltrane@dpi.nc.gov.